

**REMARKS**

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are currently pending in the above-identified application.

**Priority**

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority documents filed March 22, 2001. A copy of the March 22, 2001 mailroom, date-stamped receipt is enclosed as an indication that the documents were received by the Patent Office.

**Specification**

The specification has been amended to overcome the informalities pointed out by the Examiner.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended are required by the Examiner.

**35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palusamy et al (4,935,195). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to a method for providing wall-thickness thinning prediction information by simulating the behavior of fluid flowing inside a pipe based on received wall-thickness data. The present invention takes into consideration that pipe thickness is reduced as fluid flows through the pipe and removes portions of the pipe. As an example, the oxide film can be peeled off due to fluid friction and iron inside the pipes is ionized and flows out. Due to this turbulent flow within the pipe that causes portions to peel off, the thickness of the pipe is reduced. According to the present invention, fluid simulation is performed and the inertia force is estimated. Therefore, without having to measure the pipe thickness, it is possible to specify a portion in the interior of the pipe in which there might be a dangerous amount of thinning. This type of analysis is not taught by the prior art.

Palusamy et al disclose a well known system of determining pipe thinning. Palusamy et al perform supersonic diagnosis and present the results by a computer aided design

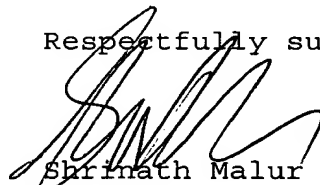
(CAD) in a two-dimensional manner or three-dimensional manner. These inspected thickness measurement results are compared with previous results to determine the trend in thinning of the pipes.

However, this well known measurement system has no bearing on the presently claimed invention. According to the presently claimed invention, the fluid analysis is performed to determine how much thinning will occur in order to determine when too much thinning will occur. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

#### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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In re Patent Application of

K. ARAKI et al

Serial No.

Filed: March 22, 2001

For: METHOD OF OFFERING WALL-THICKNESS THINNING PREDICTION  
INFORMATION, AND COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM  
STORING WALL-THICKNESS THINNING PREDICTION PROGRAM, AND  
METHOD OF PLANNING PIPING WORK PLAN

Papers Filed Herewith:

1. Title Page; Description (43 pp.), 5 Claims,  
Abstract;
2. Declaration and Power of Attorney;
3. Check No. 2908 for \$710.00 (Filing Fee);
4. 34 sheets drawings (Figs. 1-36);
5. Information Disclosure Statement,  
PTO-1449 Form, and  
Copies of documents cited;
6. Certified copies of JP 2000-101188  
and JP 2000-286849;
7. List of Inventor's Name and Address;
8. Transmittal; and
9. Serial No. postcard.



Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the papers filed, as  
identified in connection with the above-identified patent  
application.

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